

Message Text

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PAGE 01 FUKUOK 00040 030952Z

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FM AMCONSUL FUKUOKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 538

INFO AMCONSUL SAPPORO

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: APER, ASEC, PORS

SUBJECT: CONSULAR OFFICER'S TESTIMONY IN COURT

REF: 75 FUKUOKA 159 (NOTAL, FUKUOKA 9 (NOTAL)

1. TRIAL OF TWO OF THREE CONSULATE ATTACKERS, HIKARU KOISHI AND TOSHIKI TOYA, COMPLETED MORNING FEBRUARY 25 AT FUKUOKA DISTRICT COURT. FORMER, ONE OF TWO ATTACKERS WHO HAD OCCUPIED PRINCIPAL OFFICER'S OFFICE, RECEIVED SIX YEARS IMPRISONMENT. TOYA WAS GIVEN THREE YEARS SENTENCE. KOISHI'S SENTENCE DOUBLE THAT OF TOYA'S BECAUSE HE WAS CONVICTED OF ARSON, WHICH JAPANESE CONSIDER EXTREMELY SERIOUS CRIME. TOYA, WHO HAD BEEN LONE ATTACKER WHO STAYED OUTSIDE IN CONSULATE COURTYARD AND BURNED FLAG AND BROKE WINDOWS, NOT CONVICTED OF ARSON.

2. WE UNDERSTAND OBSERVER FROM TOKYO WHO IS ALLEGEDLY MEMBER OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF MARUSEIDO PRESENT AT TRIAL. DURING TRIAL, BOTH KOISHI AND TOYA EVACUATED FROM COURTROOM FOR SHORT PERIOD FOR SHOUTING, ALTHOUGH THEY RETURNED FOR FINAL VERDICT.

3. THIRD ATTACKER, YASUO MORIOKA, RECEIVED FOUR YEAR
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PAGE 02 FUKUOK 00040 030952Z

SENTENCE, ALTHOUGH PROSECUTION HAD ASKED FOR SIX. MORIOKA,

AS REPORTED REFTTEL, HAS LEFT MARUSEIDO, AND THIS WAS REASON HIS TRIAL HANDLED SEPARATELY, AND NO DOUBT FACTOR IN RELATIVELY LIGHT SENTENCE AS COMPARED TO KOISHI. PRESIDING JUDGE MENTIONED POSSIBLE HARM TO U.S. JAPANESE RELATIONS AS CENTRAL REASON FOR SEVERITY OF SENTENCES. PROSECUTOR INFORMS US APPEAL, AT LEAST BY KOISHI AND TOYA, QUITE LIKELY.

4. POLICE HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF POSSIBLE ACTION AGAINST CONSULATE BY ANY GROUP, BUT, IN VIEW OF BOMBING HOKKAIDO PREFECTURAL HEADQUARTERS, WE HAVE TIGHTENED CONSULATE'S SECURITY.
RICHARDSON

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